



Individual Beverage Heater (IBH)

Overview:

The Flameless Ration Heater (FRH) has proven to be an effective method for heating the MRE, though it is not well suited for preparing hot beverages. In addition, keeping a canteen filled with water from freezing in cold weather can be very difficult. Consequently, the **Individual Beverage Heater (IBH)** will be designed to provide a safe, flameless method to quickly and conveniently heat a canteen or a canteen cup filled with water.

Description:

Currently in the concept development phase, the IBH is operationally similar to the existing FRH. By incorporating a gusseted bag with the existing FRH within the MRE, the FRH can provide alternative heating of a ration or a beverage. This low-cost concept would enable the warfighter to heat water in the canteen cup. By simply folding the FRH in half, placing it within the short gusseted bag, a canteen cup filled with 8 to 10 ounces of water can be quickly heated to 140° F. An auxiliary use of the heater would be to keep the soldier's canteen from freezing in cold weather or to thaw a frozen canteen.

An alternative high-temperature heater is also being explored for potential use in ration and/or beverage heating applications. This hand-held heater will incorporate a self-contained chemical heat source that provides a well-controlled, high temperature heat source that may be capable of heating both a ration and beverage simultaneously.

Several alternative concepts have been proposed, fabricated/procured, and tested. Follow-on user testing will be completed in September 1999. The performance, cost, and disposability or recyclability of the alternative concepts will be assessed and the optimum solution will be transitioned to 6.4 in FY00.



Point of Contact:

Peter Lavigne (Natick Soldier Center), DSN 256-4939, COMM (508) 233-4939

U.S. Army
Soldier and Biological
Chemical Command

Soldier Systems Center
Kansas Street
Natick, Massachusetts
01760
www.sbccom.army.mil

rev 10-25-99